



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 6, 1992

Ms. Elizabeth A. Lunday  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Mesquite  
Office of the City Attorney  
P. O. Box 850137  
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR92-307

Dear Ms. Lunday:

You ask whether the names of parents of children allegedly involved in starting a fire are subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 15846.

The requested information is contained in an report of an investigation into the fire by the city fire department. You claim that the information may be withheld from required disclosure under section 3(a)(8) of the Open Records Act. We agree. Section 3(a)(8) permits withholding of

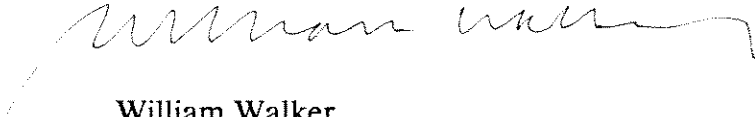
records of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors that deal with the detection, investigation, and prosecution of crime and the internal records and notations of such law enforcement agencies and prosecutors which are maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement and prosecution.

A previous determination of this office, Open Records Decision No. 134 (1976), ruled that section 3(a)(8) would protect, *inter alia*, the names of suspects and witnesses contained in a fire investigation report. In our opinion, revealing the names of the children's parents would in this case tend also to identify the children whom the report names as suspects or witnesses in connection with the incident. Therefore, you may withhold the requested information.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with

a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-307.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Walker", is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

William Walker  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

WW/lmm

Ref.: ID# 15846

Enclosure: Open Records Decision No. 134

cc: Mr. Robert W. Burcalow  
CEO, Carebco Management, Inc.  
P. O. Box 743462  
Dallas, Texas 75374-3462  
(w/o enclosures)